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LB 543

of time. I just want the opportunity, and I'm going to take the opportunity to say the things I believe need to be said on this bill and specifically the parts of it that I'm been dealing with, and I have at least one other amendment up there after this one that I will be talking to you about, and talking to you about, and talking to you about. It is totally wrong for the state to give benefits to these churches, especially when those benefits are paid for from the taxes of everybody. People who not only don't go to church, who wished there were no churches, but they are assessed taxes against their will. Then their taxes are used to underwrite these churches and their activities, activities with which these taxpayers disagree but have no choice about. I have heard senators stand on this floor and complain about high property taxes and other things that they say are unfair. They cannot apply that principle here because it is not a principle at all. It is a position of convenience and expediency. There is nothing moral in it at all. They are trying to benefit a certain group or class and that's the extent of it. If they could benefit their group and hurt everybody else, that's what they would do, and that's how a lot of legislation is framed. That's what this provision that I'm talking about does. It compels people who are not religious, people who are antireligious to cough up money that goes for religious purposes.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The Legislature enacted a law that created a fund and the Legislature said no public school student can get any money out of this fund. If there is no money anywhere available for public school students and there is money in this church school fund, they cannot get one penny. The Legislature did that. I wonder how many people in this state know that's what their Legislature did? I'm so glad that we get covered on television so that I can tell the public what nobody else will tell them, and I can tell them again, and again, and again, and again, and yet again, and there will be some people who understand the necessity of at least one person being willing to stand up publicly and deal with these inappropriate activities.